6 December 1972

Dear Harold:

Many thanks to Lil for outlining the possibilities open to us in tax returns under the new status, and to you for using your influence with this good lady, whose rate structure, if I may say so, is well-high irresistible.

What we plan to do is what we had thought all along we'd better do -- go to the local Block people for the help we'll undoubtedly need. Thanks to the ideas both you and Lil provided, we have a much better idea of what is possible. There's an office in Mill Valley, so no problem.

Depending on whether everything can be prepared in time to avoid running into Lil's busy season, we may take her up on your offer to let her have a look at the result before sending it in. However The AP rarely provides its withholding form before mid-February, so the prospect of avoiding Lil's busy period appears unlikely. A minor delaying factor also is the fact that I remain on the AP payroll through the end of the year, so earnings and withholding cannot be estimated at more than an approximation until that time.

This is one of many times we wish we lived a bit closer, since we're sure Lil would be the best possible person to consult and get advice from, quite apart from her rates. However, even with her rates, it seems that handling a tax return 3,000 miles away would be a rather dubious undertaking, certainly from her standpoint, and had better be limited to such advice and counsel as we may find necessary to ask her in the form of specific questions to which she can give readily available specific answers. Particularly after she gets busy.

In any case your willingness, both of you, to help is much appreciated, and we shall try to show our thanks by holding questions to minimum essentials.

And we do thank you both,

jdw